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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that the school boards in St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, together with the Roman Catholic Church/Archdiocese of New Orleans, will receive \$28,834,801.51 in federal disaster aid grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants will reimburse the parishes for disaster relief costs incurred from August 29, 2005, through June 30, 2006.

**"Rebuilding our schools is an important first step in Louisiana's long road to recovery. Without quality school facilities, families can't return home and communities can't rebuild," said Melancon. "These federal grants will enable St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish schools to continue rebuilding. I will keep working in Congress to make sure recovery funds reach the people who need them."**

The following grants were announced today for St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish schools:

- **\$6,711,390.00 for Buras High School Main Building (Plaquemines Parish).** High winds, heavy rains and 21-foot-high storm waters from Hurricane Katrina inundated Buras High School. The first floor was completely flooded; windows and doors were blown out; mold is present in some areas. All wood finishes, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems were damaged. This grant will compensate the Plaquemines Parish School Board for the cost of restoring the main high school building to pre-disaster condition. The facility was constructed in 1952, and is a two-story building with reinforced concrete floors.

- **\$1,038,581.10 for Port Sulphur Senior High School (Plaquemines Parish).** High winds and storm waters from Hurricane Katrina damaged Port Sulphur Senior High School, flooding the buildings with 11.5 feet of water. Damage to the high school includes roof, structural, floor, heating, ventilation, electrical and plumbing. This grant will partially compensate Plaquemines Parish School Board for the cost of repairs. While the Senior High School is located on campus with the elementary, middle, and junior high school buildings, this grant only addresses the Senior High School buildings. The main classroom building is a 2-story, brick-framed, flat

roof system, 3.5 feet above grade with a small boiler room and laundry at grade. It was constructed in 1953 is 42,146 square feet. The industrial arts building is one story brick frame flat roof structure that is 2,499 square feet.

• **\$1,648,400.44 for Andrew Jackson High School (St. Bernard Parish).** Hurricane Katrina severely damaged Andrew Jackson High School, tearing off the roof and flooding the building with nine feet of water. The slowly-receding floodwaters caused mold growth and an infestation of species. This grant will reimburse St. Bernard Parish School Board for additional costs incurred while cleaning the building, removing and disposing of all debris, and securing the facility. The campus, built in 1965, consists of a 97,000 square foot, two story main building, 33,000 square foot gym, and a 6,800 square foot one-story classroom and office building.

• **\$1,206,266.36 for St Bernard High School (St. Bernard Parish).** St. Bernard High School was severely damaged by high winds & storm surge from Hurricane Katrina. The school sustained almost five feet of water damage and over an extended period, mold growth, silt, mud, snakes, rats and fleas infested the building. This grant will reimburse St. Bernard Parish School Board for work performed in repairing the building. The school was built in 1967 and has two main structures, totaling 118,004 square feet.

• **\$1,582,134.41 for N.P. Trist Middle School (St. Bernard Parish).** High winds and storm waters from Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage to N.P. Trist Middle School. The school was flooded with nine feet of water; portions of the roof were blown off; and all contents, flooring, and furnishings were saturated with water and remained flooded for an extended period of time, causing mold growth and allowing several species of pests to infest the structure. This grant will reimburse St. Bernard Parish School Board for additional costs incurred while cleaning the building, removing and disposing of all debris, and securing the facility. The school's total square footage of 97,000 square feet includes a cafeteria, gym, field house, classrooms and offices.

• **\$1,189,352.71 for Joseph Maumus Arts Center (St. Bernard Parish).** The Joseph Maumus Arts Center in Arabi sustained massive damage during Hurricane Katrina. Three feet of flood waters saturated all contents, sheetrock, fixtures, furnishings and equipment. The building became infested with snakes, rats and fleas. This grant will reimburse St. Bernard Parish School Board for additional costs incurred while cleaning the building and removing and disposing of all debris.

• **\$9,016,057.81 to Rebuild Arabi Elementary School (St. Bernard Parish).** Heavy winds and storm waters from Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage to Arabi Elementary School. High winds caused the roof membrane to be torn off; flood waters reached 9 feet and remained for an extended period. The 13.5 acre campus received 13-30 feet storm surge that impacted and collapsed the non-reinforced exterior north walls, weakening interior and south walls, which also collapsed. This grant will compensate St. Bernard School Board for the cost to replace the school building. Built in 1968 and renovated in 1998 with current codes, the main structure is 77,500 square feet and is a one-story steel, concrete masonry and brick veneer with a slab-on-pilings. It housed classrooms, library, cafeteria, gym and attached planetarium and ancillary functions.

• **\$1,394,035.87 for Sebastien Roy Elementary School (St. Bernard Parish).** Sebastien Roy Elementary School was severely damaged by high winds and flooding from Hurricane Katrina. The roof was damaged and flood waters settled at 12'6", which took an extended period of time to drain and left silt, mud, snakes, rats and fleas in the building. This grant will reimburse St. Bernard Parish School Board for additional costs incurred while cleaning the building and removing and disposing of all debris.

• **\$1,111,817.56 for J. F. Gauthier Elementary School (St. Bernard Parish).** High winds and storm waters from Hurricane Katrina cause massive damage to J. F. Gauthier Elementary School. Nine feet of flood water took an extended period of time to drain, leaving silt, mud, snakes, rats and fleas in the facility. This grant will reimburse St. Bernard Parish School Board for additional costs incurred while cleaning the building and removing and disposing of all debris. The school was built in 1964 and served 1st through 8th grades.

• **\$1,365,892.45 for St. Bernard Parish School Board's Bus Maintenance and Storage Building (SBMB) (St. Bernard Parish).** The St. Bernard Parish School Board's Bus Maintenance and Storage Building was severely damaged by high winds from Hurricane Katrina. High winds tore off the roof membrane, flooding the building with up to 14 feet of water and causing extensive water damage. As the waters receded, mold growth and infestation of rats, snakes and fleas remained. This grant will reimburse St. Bernard Parish School Board for additional costs incurred while cleaning the building and removing and disposing of all debris. The structure, built in 1972 is a prefabricated steel framed building with overhead space to accommodate a double height bus bay, along with a mezzanine office and storage space.

• **\$1,115,749.20 for Archbishop Hannan High School Temporary Facilities (St. Bernard Parish).** High winds and heavy rains from Hurricane Katrina severely damaged Archbishop Hannon High School in St. Bernard Parish, causing six to nine feet of flooding. The main

school building, which was 52,700 square feet in size, housed 23 classrooms including labs, art studio and a music/choral room and served 560 students in grades 8 through 12. All other campus facilities were completely destroyed including the library, auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria and administrative offices. This grant will reimburse the Roman Catholic Church/Archdiocese of New Orleans for 90% of the cost incurred in hiring a contractor to provide all materials, labor, permits, drawings and engineering required for the installation of 28 complete temporary facilities for the school, which will be located in Covington, LA.

• **\$1,455,123.60 to Relocate and Rebuild Archbishop Hannan High School Arts Building (St. Bernard Parish).** Katrina's heavy rains and winds caused severe damage to the Archbishop Hannan High School Arts Building. Structural, mechanical and electrical systems were damaged beyond repair. The first floor suffered extensive flood damage and the second floor had mold damaged. In all, 75% of the building was heavily damaged. This grant will compensate the Roman Catholic Church/Archdiocese of New Orleans for the cost of relocating and rebuilding the Arts building to its pre-disaster condition. The Arts building, which was completed in 2005, is a 13,258 square feet, two story stucco veneer with steel frame housing the auditorium, classrooms, music, art and offices.

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